

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 20, and 25 have been amended as a result of this Response. Claims 1, 20, 25, 28, and 39 are independent claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 28-39 are allowable and that claims 3-27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § second paragraph. Applicants assert that they have amended claims 1, 20, and 25 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that at least claims 3-39 are in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are allowable because U.S. Patent 6,373,619 is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) against claims 1-2 of the present application.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings due to minor informalities. Applicants are in the process of preparing new formal drawings.

35 U.S.C. § 112 SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1, 20, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have made minor amendments to claims 1, 20, and 25 to remove this rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that it is evident that these amendments are non-narrowing amendments.

35 U.S.C. §102(E) SANDSTROM REJECTION

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,373,619 to Sandstrom. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

As indicated on the front page of the '619 Sandstrom patent, this patent is entitled to a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of August 31, 2000. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are supported at least by PCT application PCT/SE99/00310 filed on March 2, 1999. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 2 are entitled to at least this date. Since this date is before the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of the '619 Sandstorm patent, Applicants respectfully assert that this rejection is not a proper one under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the various objections and rejections and allowance of claims 1-39 is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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